MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2016 / 2017

PEN0065 – ACADEMIC ENGLISH

(All Groups)

11 OCTOBER 2016
2.30 – 4.30 PM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **SEVEN** printed pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A, B** and C.
3. Write your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the four reading texts, and answer the questions for each text in complete sentences.

Text 1

Sitting all day is the new smoking. Even if you maintain a balanced diet and get regular exercise, study after study shows that sitting at a desk for eight hours a day could negate even the healthiest lifestyles.

Studies have linked excessive sitting to early death, cancer, obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Standing, on the other hand, has been shown to improve blood sugar, eliminate fats, and decrease cholesterol levels because it stimulates blood flow throughout the body.

Another study published in the *European Heart Journal* followed more than 5,000 people for 16 years and found that standing versus sitting had very little effect on their mortality. The study proved that walking around the office can help people avoid weight gain; participants who took a 15-minute walk burned three times as many calories as those who sat or stood still. If you took just four 15-minute walks a day, you could burn 130 more calories than if you simply sat or stood at your desk. Other research shows that walking for just 10 minutes after a prolonged period of sitting can restore heart health and decrease the risk of diabetes.

According to research published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, taking regular strolls throughout the day is believed to be healthier than half an hour of intense exercise because it discourages prolonged sedentary behaviour, a huge contributor to cardiovascular diseases and mortality. In addition, breaks boost your mood and make you more productive.

It is not hard to turn walking breaks into a daily habit. Try setting alarms on your phone to remind you to move around, or make it a priority to get outside for a brisk walk during your lunch hour. All of those little changes will add up, so slip on your shoes and start walking your way to a healthier body.

Adapted from Nelson, B. (2016). The one essential thing you need to lose weight at work. *Reader's Digest*. Retrieved from http://www.rd.com/health/diet-weight-loss/exercise-at-work/

a) Why is sitting all day considered the new smoking? (1 mark)

b) Find the word that means "more than is necessary, normal, or desirable" in paragraph 2. (1 mark)

c) What is the main idea of paragraph 3? (1 mark)

d) How effective is regular walk compared to intense exercise? (2 marks)

e) Provide an **antonym** for the word "*prolonged*" (line 18). (1 mark)

Continued...

f) What is the issue in this text and what is the author's view on this issue? (1 mark)

Text 2

There is little doubt that learning to play a musical instrument is great for developing brains. Science has shown that when children learn to play music, their brains begin to hear and process sounds that they could not otherwise hear. This helps them develop "neurophysiological distinction" between certain sounds that can aid in literacy, which can translate into improved academic results for kids.

A new study from Northwestern University revealed that in order to fully reap the cognitive benefits of a music class, kids have to be actively engaged in the music and participate in the class. The study showed that students who played instruments in class had more improved neural processing than the children who attended the music appreciation group. "We like to say that 'making music matters,'" said Kraus. "It is only through the active generation and manipulation of sound that music can rewire the brain."

In another study conducted by the Northwestern team, it showed that there was a direct evidence that music training has a biological effect on children's developing nervous systems. The researchers proved that the level of engagement in the music training actually matters. They found that after two years, children who not only regularly attended music classes, but also actively participated in the class, showed larger improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers.

As to how to keep children interested in playing instruments, that is up to the parents. "I think parents should follow their intuitions with respect to keeping their children engaged," said Kraus. "Find the kind of music they love, good teachers, an instrument they'll like. Making music should be something that children enjoy and will want to keep doing for many years!"

With that in mind, it is not too late to trade in those Minecraft Legos and XBox presents that you may have purchased, and swap them out for music lessons for the kids in your life.

Adapted from Locker, M. (2014). This is how music can change your brain. *TIME*. Retrieved from http://time.com/3634995/study-kids-engaged-music-class-for-benefits-northwestern/

a) How could playing musical instruments develop a child's cognitive levels? Provide two reasons. (1 mark)

b) State the benefits gained by students who play musicals instruments in class. (2 marks)

c) How can parents sustain their children's interest in music? (2 marks)

Continued...

d) What does the author mean when he states "*it's not too late to trade in those Minecraft Legos, and XBox games, presents that you may have purchased, and swap them out for music lessons for the kids in your life.* (lines 25-27)? (1 mark)

Text 3

On a recent summer evening, something strange happened in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. As usual, joggers zipped along the edge of the park, but this time they were joined by a dozen people shuffling about haphazardly, zombie eyes fixed on their glowing phone screens. This ad hoc crowd was busy catching Pokémon, the virtual creatures at the heart of the latest, out-of-nowhere smartphone craze.

Pokémon Go, released July 6 for Apple iOS and Google Android devices, is the first game in the 20-year-old franchise specifically designed for mobile gadgets. Go, developed by San Francisco–based Niantic, employs a phone's GPS to make Pokémon appear near players' physical locations. Using the built-in camera, creatures pop up onscreen, integrated within the real world around them. Different types of Pokémon, which range from two-headed ostriches to plushy dragons, manifest at different times of day in public places encouraging outdoor exploration.

Even in an era of viral fads and Internet-breaking stunts, Pokémon Go became a thing at record pace. It shot to the top of the application charts, the fastest mobile game ever to reach No. 1 in terms of revenue, according to tracking firm App Annie. Investors cheered by the game's sudden popularity added $7.5 billion to Nintendo's market value in two days, and according to Google Trends, "Pokémon" searches even surpassed those for porn, if only temporarily.

Pokémon Go represents something well beyond previous hits like Candy Crush Saga or Farmville. It is a milestone for so-called augmented reality (AR), the practice of overlaying digital images on the real world via smartphone screen or head-mounted display. Go successfully uses AR as a sweetener to a mix of nostalgia for Pokémon, which peaked in popularity during the late '90s when many millennials were preteens, as well as elements of long-gone Internet-age fads from geocaching to flash mobs. While technologists have been trying to perfect how AR works, Pokémon has provided one early answer for why you would want it to.

Go has generated dystopian headlines like the one about the teen girl in Wyoming who ran across a dead body while hunting Pokémon, or the man in Holyoke, Mass, who found himself besieged by masses of players when the game randomly designated his home a prime gathering spot. However, there were just as many reports of gamers rejoicing at having a reason to exercise, strangers bonding over a shared interest and parents finding new ways to play with their kids.

Adapted from Vella, M. (2016). The pokémon fad shows the unnerving future of augmenting reality. *TIME.* Retrieved from http://time.com/4405053/pokemon-augmented-reality/

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a) State TRUE or FALSE for the following statements: (1 mark)
   i. The crowd that appeared in Prospect Park on the recent summer evening mentioned in paragraph 1 was a common sight.
   ii. Pokemon Go is the first game that can be played on mobile devices for the 20-year-old franchise.

b) Why is Pokemon Go's success considered as phenomenal? (1½ marks)

c) How did this application achieve its success? (1½ marks)

d) What is the main idea of paragraph 5? (1 mark)

Text 4

Two years ago, Facebook bought small British business Ascenta, which specialises in solar-powered drones. Facebook named it Project Aquila which will see solar-powered aircrafts flying for months at a time above remote places, beaming down an internet connection. Its owner Andy Cox is now the engineer running the project. During its first flight in Arizona, the unmanned aircraft, which has the wingspan of a Boeing 737 but is only a third the weight of a typical family car, stayed airborne for 90 minutes and performed well. After the flight, Mr Cox told me there was still a long way to go. "Eventually we will fly at 60,000-90,000 feet, above conventional air traffic, where it's very cold, and for periods of up to three months. That means we can loiter around a given waypoint providing the internet without interfering with other traffic," he said. Right now the record for continuous flight by a solar-powered aircraft is two weeks, so getting to the point where the Facebook drone can stay airborne for three months will involve a lot more work.

This might sound like just the kind of fringe project that a hugely wealthy technology business can afford to tinker with, but Facebook seems to be taking it seriously at the highest level. Mark Zuckerberg was in Arizona to see the first flight, and the global head of engineering, Jay Parikh, has been making frequent trips to Somerset to oversee progress. Mr Parikh also revealed that Project Aquila was just one of a number of technologies Facebook is developing to bring connectivity to remote places.

Of course, it is not alone in its mission to get these people online. Google's Project Loon involves using high altitude balloons to connect people to the internet in the same remote places that Facebook aims to serve. Both of these internet giants would like to be seen as benevolent forces advancing the global good of connectivity, so we can expect the race to be pretty fierce. These kind of initiatives are not without controversy. India rejected the Facebook Free Basics project, which was to give citizens limited, free web access via their mobile phones, amid suspicions that it was all about making the company more powerful.

This time, Facebook is treading carefully with Project Aquila, emphasising that it will just provide the connection, leaving local companies responsible for any services. Mr Zuckerberg seems to have a genuine desire to bring people the connectivity that could

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transform their lives. However, you cannot help feeling that he will also be hoping that Facebook's drones will be flying above sub-Saharan Africa before Google's balloons.

Adapted from Cellan-Jones, R.(2016. Facebook's drones- Made in Britain. Retrieved from http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-36855168 35

a) What is the main idea of paragraph 2? (1 mark)

b) How do we know that Project Aquila is not seen by Facebook as an unimportant project ? (2 marks)

c) In lines 23-24, the writer writes "…expect the race to be pretty fierce". What "race" is the writer referring to? (1 mark)

d) How did Facebook handle or dismiss the controversy that arouse due to its initiative? (2 marks)

e) Identify the author's tone in this article. (1 mark)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Question 1: Transitions (5 marks)

Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable transition.

Example: Other animals, **(0)** **such as** newborn giraffe calves, are able to clamber…

Some animals come into this world more self-sufficient than others. Many can fend for themselves without any parental supervision almost immediately — picture baby sea turtles hatching on the sand, and then somehow finding their way to the ocean. Other animals, **(0)** **such as** newborn giraffe calves, are able to clamber upright and walk around on their own within hours of birth.

When animals produce self-sufficient young, it is for a number of reasons related to both biology and behaviour, according to John Dumbacher, a curator of ornithology and mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences. Some animals need their young to be mobile as quickly as possible because adults are constantly on the move, and the young need to keep up. (1)_____ other species that do not roam as widely hunker down with helpless young in their nests or burrows. Take birds, for example. "Songbirds such as robins or bluebirds tend to be born really small and more or less naked, with their eyes closed, (2)_____ they cannot do much more than lifting up their heads and getting a meal from their parents," Dumbacher explained. On the other hand, newly hatched chickens or ducks are much more capable of taking care of themselves. "They have downy feathers; they can walk around; they can peck at the ground," Dumbacher said.

(3)_____, the hatchling's ability can be partly explained by the size of the adult bird, Dumbacher said, which translates into the maximum size of the egg it can lay. Bigger-bodied ducks, chickens and geese can lay larger eggs that hold more nutrients; (4)_____ an embryo can spend more time developing inside. Songbird eggs are already as large as they can be relative to the parents' body size, so their young are born in a less-developed state and require more time under the parents' wings, Dumbacher added.

"In addition, the self-sufficiency of mammal newborns is also determined by how much of their behaviour can be coded in instinct versus how much has to be learned from their parents," he said. (5)_____, the more information about behaviour that a juvenile has to absorb from adults of its own kind, the more important the role of long-term parental care is in integrating a young newcomer into the patterns and practices of the group.

Adapted from Weisberger, M. (2016). Why are human babies so helpless? Retrieved from http://www.livescience.com/54605-why-are-babies-helpless.html

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Question 2: Modal Verbs (5 marks)

Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable modal verb.

Example: (0) Should one change their name?

(0) Should one change their name? Everyone has the right to change their name. By right, you (1)_____ legally change your name to whatever name you would like. There are some exceptions, though which are, you cannot change your name just to escape debt liability or to commit a crime. Thus, what are the most common reasons people change their names?

Marriage and divorce are easily the most common reasons people change their names. If you want to change your name after marriage, you (2)_____ go to a government office to get your name changed. If you want to go back to your former last name after a divorce, then usually mere usage is all that is required. Most states allow you to legally change your name simply through usage by using it in social settings and in your business. This is a completely legal name change.

However, some states (3)_____ require legal documentation of your name change. The most commonly required forms include a petition to legally change your name, an order to show the cause for legally changing your name. In most cases, a judge or magistrate (4)_____ review your forms and grant the name change.

Be sure to check the requirements in your state by visiting your state government's website. You (5)_____ get started now, by downloading a Name Change Forms online. Just choose a name that you like, and you are ready to begin!

Adapted from How to legally change your name? *Thomson Reuters*. Retrieved from http://family.findlaw.com/marriage/how-to-legally-change-your-name.html

SECTION C: WRITING [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Write a process essay of **not less than 350** words based on the information given below.

Scams can appear in many different forms. There are many scams around that could trick or cheat the unsuspecting victims. Explain the steps that we could take to protect ourselves from becoming a victim of a scam.

End of Paper